

MEETING SUMMARY
FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FMAC) MEETING
Roscommon Area
Wednesday, September 12, 2007
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

FMAC Members Present

Mr. George Berghorn, Michigan Forest Products Council
Mr. William Cook, Michigan State University Extension
Ms. Susan Holben, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Mr. Dan Keathley, Michigan State University
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging

FMAC Delegate Present

Mr. Evan Peterson, Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Mr. Marvin Roberson, Sierra Club
Mr. Steve Shine, Michigan Department of Agriculture

FMAC Members Absent

Mr. Joel Blohm, Great Northern Lumber of Michigan
Mr. William Bobier, Earthscape Resource Management
Ms. Lynne Boyd, Chair, Department of Natural Resources
Mr. Thomas Dunn, American Motorcycle Association
Dr. Margaret (Peg) Gale, Michigan Technological University
Mr. Desmond Jones, Michigan Tree Farm System
Ms. Rachel Kuntzch, Heart of the Lakes
Mr. Bill Manson, Michigan Snowmobile Association
Ms. Erin McDonough, Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Mr. Frank Ruswick, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Gordon Wenk, Michigan Department of Agriculture
Ms. Anne Woiwode, Sierra Club

FMAC Committee Advisors Absent

Ms. Leanne Marten, USDA Forest Service

Public Attendees/Guests

Mr. Richard Cronk, Resident Roscommon Area
Mr. Ron Easterly, Resident Roscommon Area
Mr. Todd Johnson, Weyerhaeuser
Mrs. Judy McReavy, Resident Roscommon
Mr. Bob McReavy, Resident Roscommon
Mr. Mike Thompson, Resident Roscommon
Mr. Mike Thorman, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Present

Mr. Steven Anderson, FMFM
Ms. Kerry Gray, FMFM
Mr. Bill O'Neill, FMFM

The business meeting followed a field tour led by residents of the Roscommon Area. The field tour began at 9:00 a.m. at the intersection of Emery Rd and M-55. The business meeting followed at 1:30 at the Firehouse Restaurant in St. Helen.

WELCOME

Mr. Bill Cook, FMAC Co-Chairperson, called the Forest Management Advisory Committee (Committee or FMAC) meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. **Mr. Cook** welcomed Committee and guests.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Due to the lack of a quorum, the Committee was not able to adopt the agenda.

Mr. Cook added a discussion of "Top Issues" to the agenda.

There were no other comments on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF AUGUST 1 MEETING SUMMARY

Due to the lack of a quorum the Committee was not able to adopt the August 1 meeting summary.

Mr. George Berghorn had one comment related to the August meeting summary and the discussion related to woody biomass harvesting guidelines. The Forest Finance Authority (FFA) just came to a decision yesterday (September 11) to create a subcommittee that will look into woody biomass harvesting. His concern was the FMAC may be expending energy on a project that the FFA has already decided to address. He suggested that the FMAC may want to work with the FFA or look at the information the FFA subcommittee identifies related to woody biomass harvesting.

TOP ISSUES FACING MICHIGAN'S FOREST RESOURCE

Mr. Cook asked what "Top Issues" the Committee has been discussing at recent meetings and which ones should the FMAC be focusing on. **Mr. Suchovsky** stated that the FMAC had not discussed this at previous meetings but he has been concerned about climate change and how it will impact forest communities in Michigan. He would like this topic added to the "Top Issues" list.

Mr. Berghorn brought up the issue of developing a marketing and branding program for Michigan wood. He has a 20 minute presentation that he would like to give to the FMAC at the November meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Cook provided background of the FMAC for the public present.

Mr. Mike Thorman wants to see the DNR work to make it easier for the public to be involved in trail closure decisions.

Mr. Robert McCreavy thanked the FMAC for coming out and meeting with the residents.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TOUR RECAP AND DISCUSSION

The public present also provided comment during this agenda item.

Mr. Cook opened the floor to discussion and recap of today's field tour.

Mrs. Judy McCreavy again thanked the FMAC for taking the time to visit with the residents and listen to their concerns.

Mr. Mike Thompson stated that as a resident of the Roscommon area he hoped they have expressed their primary concerns with the management activities occurring in the area. He hoped this meeting would open a dialogue between citizens and the DNR regarding land management decisions, and the importance of citizens being aware of what is being planned before a final decision is made. He said the Roscommon citizens feel that the compartment review just tells the public what the DNR is doing instead of giving the public a meaningful public participation process. They would like more upfront input.

Dr. Dan Keathley asked Mr. Thompson if he could design a public participation process what would it look like. **Mr. Thompson** responded the first and foremost problem is public notification. Compartment review is advertised but there has to be a way to better inform the public of what they need to be aware of before they show up and complain. The DNR could use email to notify public or put ads in sportsman's magazines.

Mr. Marvin Roberson stated that public input should start before the compartment review. The plan is already in place at the compartment review. He would also like input on the desired future conditions of forest stands.

Mr. Thorman suggested the DNR do what the US Forest Service's (USFS) Huron-Manistee National Forest does in their public participation process. The USFS keeps a list of stakeholder groups that would be impacted by their decisions, and they send out maps and information to the group (not individuals) during the scoping process before the planning has begun. The DNR's Wildlife Division also has a good public input process that makes it feel like the public's voice is being heard.

Mr. Suchovsky stated the DNR does have a public comment period before the compartment review and that is an open house. At the open house there are maps and information on the compartments that the public can comment on. He stated that comments he has made in the open house have shown up in the compartment review.

Mr. Richard Cronk stated in the advertisement about the compartment review the DNR needs to provide a map of the area instead of just the legal description, because most of the public do not understand legal descriptions.

Mrs. McCreavy suggested that absentee landowners also need to know about the open house/compartment review process.

Mr. Thorman stated that if you are not in the "loop" then you do not hear or know about open houses or compartment reviews.

Mr. Roberson stated he rarely sees significant changes between open house and compartment reviews. He also suggested the Minerals section of the DNR has an interactive map that shows the location of minerals throughout the state. He stated that FMFM could do this with State Forest land.

Mr. Suchovsky commented he did not think the DNR website was user friendly.

Mr. Todd Johnson stated that residents also have the opportunity to go to their local DNR office to get questions answered.

Mr. Cook said the DNR has a public responsibility to provide information in an easy and open way. There needs to be a mechanism to make public input better and the FMAC will be looking into this. He also stated there is a segment of the population that will not take the initiative to learn and you will not reach.

Mr. Suchovsky asked if this is an idea that Dr. Maureen McDonough, Professor in the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University, would be interested in studying.

Dr. Keathley said that Dr. McDonough is working on approaches to the public participation process. He will need to check with her and Ms. Lynne Boyd to see if the project is in a phase where it is ready to be unveiled.

Mr. Suchovsky stated these are the issues he has seen and heard discussed today and at the previous tour:

- Rapid change in the landscape
- Perception of the size of the active management unit
- ORV impacts
- Road closure issues

Mrs. McCreavy said the Wisconsin DNR has banned ORV use on non-designated trails and has issued heavy fines for those who violate the ban. **Mr. Cook** stated that ATV/ORV policy may be a good agenda item for a future meeting.

Mr. Bill O'Neill explained the DNR's ecoregional planning process.

Ms. Susan Holben stated the DEQ has a good public participation process and that it might be useful for the DNR to look at it.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

- Marketing and branding of MI wood presentation by George Berghorn
- Continued discussion on Top Issues Facing Michigan's Forest Resources
- DNR-FMFM public participation process
- ATV/ORV policy on state forest lands

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

MUCC Board Room
2101 Wood St., Lansing, MI
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Forest Management Advisory Committee business meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.